

[19 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

**Revamping of HSCL**

\*335. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assured repeatedly that they would not wind-up HSCL, but revamp it; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to attain the objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Government is not considering winding up of Hindustan Steel Works Construction limited. On the other hand, in July, 1999 Government approved a financial restructuring-cum-financial assistance package to revamp HSCL. The package inter-alia included:

- (i) Conversion of plan loans amounting to Rs. 97.10 crore into equity;
- (ii) Waiver of interest, accrued and outstanding, amounting to Rs. 957.81 crore;
- (iii) Non-plan loan amounting Rs. 79.33 crore with moratorium on repayment and interest holiday for five years subject to review at the end of five years. This amount was meant for settlement of statutory dues;
- (iv) Exemption from payment of corporate tax in 1999-2000 on account of profits arising due to waiver of interest on loans;
- (v) Continuance of Government Guarantee for Rs. 12 crore cash credit and Rs. 80 crore bank guarantee facilities, with waiver of guarantee commission of 1%.
- (vi) Providing guarantee and full interest subsidy for raising loan of Rs. 318.36 crores from Banks during the three year i.e. 1999-2000 to 2001-02 for separating 2000 employees per year.

All these steps have been implemented except exemption from payment of corporate tax. In addition to the above, various steps/efforts for increasing the turnover of the company are in progress. Government has also changed the top Management of the company.

VRS has been implemented and 6137 employees have been separated with an expenditure of Rs. 211.25 crore.

**National Debate on FDI in Print Media**

**\*336. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to initiate national debate on allowing FDI in print media;
- (b) if so, which is it likely to be initiated; and
- (c) the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):** (a) to (c) The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology has taken up the subject of 'Entry of Foreign Print Media' for examination. The Committee has invited views/suggestions from the public in general and professionals in the field of Print Media.

**Urban Schemes under NSDP in Andhra Pradesh**

**\*337. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:** Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the urban schemes which have been covered under National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years with details thereof;
- (b) the facilities being provided to the slums under NSDP; and
- (c) the present success rate of the scheme in Andhra Pradesh?

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN):** (a) As reported by the State Government, 3265 Slum Pockets have been covered under National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years (*i.e.* from 1997-98 onward).

(b) The following facilities are being provided under NSDP to the Slums in Andhra Pradesh: